City Council.

A Street Railway—The City Park.

In the early part of the summer, the City Council, conforming to an established custom, dispensed with the semi-monthly session to the first regular meeting, first Tuesday in November. Some circumstances intervened to prevent the presence of a quorum on the first Tuesday in October as the election did on the first Tuesday of November, and, under regulations, the first meeting for November was held Thursday, the 7th instant. All the members, except Messrs. Bell and Craig, who were out of town, were present—President Berkeley in the chair.

Mr. Crowle, from the auditing committee, reported approved the accounts for the usual current expenses which were ordered to be paid.

Mr. Butts, from the committee on the waterworks, reported in favor of a supply pipe with fire-plug in answer to a numerously signed petition of property-owners on Sears' Hill, in which the Council concurred.

A similar petition from Mr. J. W. Teabo, asking for a supply pipe of considerable length, was not recommended by the committee, not that they would deny the privelege of water, but because the new property in question could be as well served from a pipe on adjacent property which the owner consented should be at the service of Mr. Teabo. With that understanding, the report of the committee was agreed to.

Some months since, the Council adopted an ordinance for the privelege of constructing and the government of street railways. The ordinance was necessary in view of the application of the Staunton Improvement company to construct and operate such a line. More recently, Messrs. Samuel B. and Dean Adams of Little Rock, Arkansas, who are parties that have constructed and own street railways in that and other cities, communicated their application for such a privelege in this city—the cars to be propelled by electric power. It was referred to the committee—Messrs. Tams, Bell and McQuaide—who had prepared and submitted the ordinance adopted already referred to. That ordinance was drawn with reference to the use of horses as the motive power. At this meeting, Mr. Tams, from that committee, reported amendments to chapter 60 which prescribed the conditions under which the city would allow the construction of the electric line. The same were read and considered and then unanimously adopted. In like manner, Mr. Tams reported the contract which the committee recommended for adoption and to be entered into by the Messrs. Adams, which was also unanimously adopted.

Both the amendments to the ordinance and the contract differ in some features from the outlines submitted by the Messrs. Adams, but it is thought not conclusively objectionable to them; but that is yet to be ascertained.

Accompanying the papers filed with the committee by the Messrs. Adams was a certified check as an evidence of good faith and intention which is to be forfeited to the city, if the contract as agreed to shall not in the future be complied with; which is, that they are to commence the construction of the railway April 15, 1890, and the line to be completed and in operation April 1st, 1891.

In the matter of taxes, they pay $50 per annum upon each car; specifically and the usual property tax upon assessed value of all their property in addition to its tax on cars. Upon the poles of the company, used for transmitting their electric power the contract reserves to the city the use of them for its electric service of streets and commercial lights and the fire-alarm system.

The Council having duly considered all the terms of the ordinance and the agreement as proposed by that body, and upon the presumed ratification of the same by the Messrs. Adams, it follows that in less than eighteen months' time, the improvement and the advantages of a street-railway service at the price of five cents per capita upon its largest extension, from the corporate line on Greenville avenue to the park may be regarded as one of the judicious and advanced evidences of the enterprizing progress of Staunton.

Mr. Tams, from the Committee on Public grounds and buildings, reported the expenses $1,827.92 thus far incurred in addition to the first appropriation for the park, which was considered. Mr. Butts objecting to any expense on that account except by special appropriation, Mr. Tams explained that a considerable portion of the work thus executed was usual in proper attention to the grounds, and, strictly speaking, belonged, if separated in the rendering, to the proper current attention to the grounds. He also explained the probable work to be carried on in the future, but that could come under the usual care of the committee as specifically appropriated for in the future as the Council might determine. Mr. Tams showed that without touching any of the regular appropriations or the sinking fund and contingent account, there would be left in the treasury at the end of the fiscal year over $5,600, out of which all the improvements made or contemplated for the present at the park could be paid. The Council ordered a voucher to be drawn in favor of the treasurer for the amount, —Mr. Butts only dissenting.

The Council further directed the committee on public grounds and buildings to have all cattle removed at once from the park grounds and in reasonable time to take exclusive possession of the old mansion house which will be preserved and decorated with vines, &c., and made attractive. It becomes necessary to appropriate it for the benefit of the people, especially ladies and children, in case of rain or storm, and for rest. Some slight repairs will make it answer the double purposes of a pavilion, and a place where, in the warm months, ice-cream and refreshments of that kind can be obtained, all of which is usual at park resorts.

The committee in carrying forward the fresh improvement evince no purpose to incur excessive expense. Sufficent progress can be made from year to year without incurring a debt for that purpose, relying solely upon a surplus in the treasury from the present rate of taxation after all other needed expenditure has been attended to.

The treasurer's report shows amount of funds on hand 1st of Nov., $1,890 63.

Fines and costs imposed by the Mayor for the month of October, $32.35.